

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 21

By Shipley

A RESOLUTION to honor and applaud Head Coach Graham Clark and the Dobyys-Bennett High School football team on an outstanding season.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful high school teams that, through their magnificent exploits on the field, bring honor to Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, led by legendary coach Graham Clark, the Dobyys-Bennett High School football team is one such commendable team that achieved an extraordinary level of success during the 2008 season, establishing a record of ten wins and no losses during the regular season, and extending its record as the "Winningest High School Football Program in Tennessee"; and

WHEREAS, the Dobyys-Bennett Indians have been a dominant force within the high school football ranks for many years, having won six TSSAA state football titles and thirteen Big East Conference championships during the sixteen year history of the Conference; and

WHEREAS, the leadership and passion for the game exhibited by Dobyys-Bennett Head Coach Graham Clark is without peer; with the help of his assistant coaches, he has provided positive reinforcement to the players and has taught them valuable lessons about life, sportsmanship, and fair play; and

WHEREAS, Coach Clark, one of the most successful coaches in the history of Tennessee high school football, has amassed an incredible record of one hundred eighty wins against only thirty-seven losses, cementing Dobyys-Bennett's spot as Northeast Tennessee's pre-eminent high school football program; and

WHEREAS, the list of accomplishments of the 2008 Dobyys-Bennett football team are numerous: fourteen Indians reaped All-Conference honors, two were named Conference Players-of-the-Year, and three players were named All-State; and

WHEREAS, All-Conference honors were bestowed upon Jamie Crawford, Zack Fleming, Ryan Church, Ashlon Adams, Will Bateman, Justin Sylvester, Andrew Tompkins, Craig Mitcham, James Templeton, Alex Rich, Patrick Hansen, Jason Michael, Chris Sensabaugh, and Derrick Steele; senior Jamie Crawford was named Big East Offensive Player of the Year and senior Zach Fleming was named Big East Defensive Player of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Ryan Church, Ashlon Adams, and Zach Fleming were named to the All-State team; and Zach Fleming was honored with an invitation to play in the East-West Tennessee All-Star Classic and the Tennessee-Kentucky Border Bash; and

WHEREAS, these young men have displayed ability, teamwork, and perseverance and, with the help of their coaches, parents, and supporters, have represented their community and the State of Tennessee in fine fashion, displaying peerless character both on and off the football field; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Head Coach Graham Clark and the Dobyys-Bennett High School football team for their heralded success on the football gridiron and their extraordinary 2008 season.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.